

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 415

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct research on indicators of child well-being.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 17, 2005

Mr. ROCKEFELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct research on indicators of child well-being.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “State Child Well-Being
5 Research Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The well-being of children is a paramount
9 concern for our Nation and for every State, and

1 most programs for children and families are man-
2 aged at the State or local level.

3 (2) Child well-being varies over time and across
4 social, economic, and geographic groups, and can be
5 affected by changes in the circumstances of families,
6 by the economy, by the social and cultural environ-
7 ment, and by public policies and programs at both
8 the Federal and State level.

9 (3) States, including small States, need infor-
10 mation about child well-being that is specific to their
11 State and that is up-to-date, cost-effective, and con-
12 sistent across States and over time.

13 (4) Regular collection of child well-being infor-
14 mation at the State level is essential so that Federal
15 and State officials can track child well-being over
16 time.

17 (5) Information on child well-being is necessary
18 for all States, particularly small States that do not
19 have State-level data in other federally supported
20 data bases, such as the Survey of Income and Pro-
21 gram Participation.

22 (6) Telephone surveys of parents, on the other
23 hand, represent a relatively cost-effective strategy
24 for obtaining information on child well-being at the
25 State level for all States, including small States.

1 (7) Data from telephone surveys of the popu-
 2 lation are used to monitor progress toward many im-
 3 portant national goals, including immunization of
 4 preschool children with the National Immunization
 5 Survey, and the identification of health care issues
 6 of children with special needs with the National Sur-
 7 vey of Children with Special Health Care Needs.

8 (8) A State-level telephone survey can provide
 9 information on a range of topics, including children’s
 10 social and emotional development, education, health,
 11 safety, family income, family employment, and child
 12 care. Information addressing marriage and family
 13 structure can also be obtained for families with chil-
 14 dren. Information obtained from such a survey
 15 would not be available solely for children or families
 16 participating in programs but would be representa-
 17 tive of the entire State population and consequently,
 18 would not only inform welfare policymaking, but pol-
 19 icymaking on a range of other important issues,
 20 such as child care, child welfare, and education.

21 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH ON INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING.**

22 Section 413 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 23 613) is amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(k) INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, through
 2 grants, contracts, or interagency agreements shall
 3 develop comprehensive indicators to assess child
 4 well-being in each State.

5 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The indicators devel-
 7 oped under paragraph (1) shall include meas-
 8 ures related to the following:

9 “(i) Education.

10 “(ii) Social and emotional develop-
 11 ment.

12 “(iii) Health and safety.

13 “(iv) Family well-being, such as fam-
 14 ily structure, income, employment, child
 15 care arrangements, and family relation-
 16 ships.

17 “(B) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The data
 18 collected with respect to the indicators devel-
 19 oped under paragraph (1) shall be—

20 “(i) statistically representative at the
 21 State level;

22 “(ii) consistent across States;

23 “(iii) collected on an annual basis for
 24 at least the 5 years following the first year
 25 of collection;

1 “(iv) expressed in terms of rates or
2 percentages;

3 “(v) statistically representative at the
4 national level;

5 “(vi) measured with reliability;

6 “(vii) current;

7 “(viii) over-sampled, with respect to
8 low-income children and families; and

9 “(ix) made publicly available.

10 “(C) CONSULTATION.—In developing the
11 indicators required under paragraph (1) and
12 the means to collect the data required with re-
13 spect to the indicators, the Secretary shall con-
14 sult and collaborate with the Federal Inter-
15 agency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

16 “(3) ADVISORY PANEL.—

17 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
18 shall establish an advisory panel to make rec-
19 ommendations regarding the appropriate meas-
20 ures and statistical tools necessary for making
21 the assessment required under paragraph (1)
22 based on the indicators developed under that
23 paragraph and the data collected with respect
24 to the indicators.

25 “(B) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The advisory
2 panel established under subparagraph (A)
3 shall consist of the following:

4 “(I) One member appointed by
5 the Secretary of Health and Human
6 Services.

7 “(II) One member appointed by
8 the Chairman of the Committee on
9 Ways and Means of the House of
10 Representatives.

11 “(III) One member appointed by
12 the Ranking Member of the Com-
13 mittee on Ways and Means of the
14 House of Representatives.

15 “(IV) One member appointed by
16 the Chairman of the Committee on
17 Finance of the Senate.

18 “(V) One member appointed by
19 the Ranking Member of the Com-
20 mittee on Finance of the Senate.

21 “(VI) One member appointed by
22 the Chairman of the National Gov-
23 ernors Association, or the Chairman’s
24 designee.

1 “(VII) One member appointed by
 2 the President of the National Con-
 3 ference of State Legislatures or the
 4 President’s designee.

5 “(VIII) One member appointed
 6 by the Director of the National Acad-
 7 emy of Sciences, or the Director’s des-
 8 ignee.

9 “(ii) DEADLINE.—The members of
 10 the advisory panel shall be appointed not
 11 later than 2 months after the date of en-
 12 actment of the State Child Well-Being Re-
 13 search Act of 2005.

14 “(C) MEETINGS.—The advisory panel es-
 15 tablished under subparagraph (A) shall meet—

16 “(i) at least 3 times during the first
 17 year after the date of enactment of the
 18 State Child Well-Being Research Act of
 19 2005; and

20 “(ii) annually thereafter for the 3 suc-
 21 ceeding years.

22 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 23 There are authorized to be appropriated for each of

- 1 fiscal years 2006 through 2010, \$15,000,000 for the
- 2 purpose of carrying out this subsection.”.

